

II. REMARKS

Claims 1 to 26 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 4-6, and 10 are amended, and claims 14-26 are added. Support for the claim amendments and the new claims can be found in the specification as originally filed. In particular, claims 20-24 are directed to the preferred subject matter removed from claims 1, 5 and 10. Meanwhile, claims 14-19 and 25-26 are supported, for example, by the disclosure on pages 9-10 of the specification. Therefore, the applicants believe that no new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that "Claims 1-13 are allowable over the prior art of record" (Office Action, page 4).

Claim 1 is objected to for the asserted informalities. Applicants submit that this objection has been rendered moot by the above amendments to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the asserted indefiniteness.

Applicants submit that this objection has been rendered moot by the above amendments to claims 1, 4-6, and 10, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the dependent claims 2, 3, 7-9 and 11-13 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.


III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an additional extensions of time. The fees for this extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 108910-00127.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)